



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

I N H A B I T

MAIDEN VOYAGE

On the 50th anniversary of the School of Architecture's first graduating class, alumni from the class of '72 reflect on the school's first study abroad trip—and its lasting impact. [\(Page 6\)](#)

Inhabit is the annual alumni e-magazine of the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation—Maryland’s Built Environment School.

Inhabit showcases achievements and activities within the school, highlights the work of our alumni and connects our MAPP+D community. You may also view it on our website at www.arch.umd.edu.

To share alumni news or be added to our mailing list, contact us at: mappalum@umd.edu.

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Above: Students return for in-person classes last fall, the first time since the pandemic lockdown in March of 2020. Photo courtesy of Laura Steeg.

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Above: Students admire the craft work of Sophomore Ben Bilos, who took first place in the 2021 MAPP Pumpkin Carving Contest with his portrait of Brian Kelly. Photo by Stephanie Cordle / University of Maryland.



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I am learning that a Terp emulates curiosity, drive, ideas and optimism. - DAWN JOURDAN

Dean's Message



Dear Friends,

The year 2021 was far from normal. After nearly 18 months of virtual learning, students, faculty and staff came back to campus in August of 2021. While anxious about our return to campus, we could not help but be caught up with the energy and excitement of a new semester. It wasn't just the freshman and the first-year graduate students who were new to campus. Many of our students had not spent much time in the Architecture Building because of the COVID disruption. Like me, the majority of our students were new to the school and the University of Maryland. We were hungry to learn what it means to be a Terp.

This issue of *Inhabit* reflects on that definition. From the first class of 1972 to our students today, I am learning that a Terp emulates curiosity, drive, ideas and optimism. They give back—to

their campus and community and to the vulnerable, both people and place. They adapt. And yes, they are fearless, as you will see in the pages that follow. Whether exploring the humble enclaves of Tunisia, preserving the legacy of a jazz institution, protecting small businesses from gentrification or shoring a future for Assateague Island, they approach challenges with creativity and care, and with intent for a better world.

Our school and our world have faced many challenges beyond the past two years. We apply what we learn to transform the ways we think, come together and practice. Please join us in this transformation.

*Dawn Jourdan, Dean
School of Architecture, Planning
and Preservation*



Maiden Voyage

Five countries. Fifteen students. One world-renowned architect.

Throw in a young dean, one former Peace Corps volunteer, 19 flights and an eventful bus trip through the Sahara and you have a trip for the ages.

The Class of '72 explores Indigenous housing in Tunisia, part of a five-country architectural tour in the summer of '71.

In the summer of 1971, just three years after the University of Maryland established the state's first-ever architecture program, Dean John Hill, Kea Distinguished Professor Charles Moore and then-Assistant Professor Roger Lewis took the program's inaugural class on an epic architectural trek across Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa. Over the course of 32 days, the intrepid group traveled across eight countries over two continents exploring architectural marvels both extravagant and every day. There were no tour guides; the group relied extensively on Moore and Lewis' past travel experience and a highly organized, exhaustive itinerary.

To say the trip was ambitious is an understatement. But for the class of '72, the trip was also transformational; it changed the way they saw the world, made them better designers and tightened the threads of the already close-knit class. In many ways, it made them fearless. One student lost so much weight on the trip he was unrecognizable by his parents at the airport.

On the trip's 50th anniversary, Professor Emeritus Roger Lewis and a number of his former students reflect on MAPP's first study abroad trip—and its lasting impact.

The 1971 Architecture Tour was largely made possible by Charles Moore, the program's second Kea Professor. A highly accomplished architect, historian and teacher, Moore, who was serving as the dean of Yale University's architecture program, agreed to come to Maryland as a visiting professor for the fall of 1971, with one caveat—that a portion of his salary, paid for through an endowment established by regional architect Paul Kea and his wife Grace, be rerouted to subsidize a month-long summer study abroad trip. Mrs. Kea agreed. Moore and Lewis set to work planning the trip, which focused on exploring not just great architecture, but architecture in context.

Steve Parker, '72: I remember that the theme of the trip was related to a couple of subjects, one of them to see what people did when money—particularly in terms of housing—wasn't an object, and the other was about seeing Indigenous architecture and what people did in relation to what they had and where they were in the world.



I remember that the theme of the trip was related to a couple of subjects, one of them was about seeing Indigenous architecture and what people did in relation to what they had and where they were in the world.

- Steve Parker, '72



Roger Lewis, Professor Emeritus: Charlie knew what he wanted students to see. I was just an assistant professor trying to get the logistics done with the travel agent. But he knew I had been to Tunisia with the Peace Corps in 1964 and he wanted to see it—and with me there, we had a natural tour guide; we didn’t really need anyone else.

Mark McInturff, ‘72: I remember a meeting at the school, and a list was tacked to the board that included a number of places we didn’t go, including Isfahan, Iran. I think they just made a big list, then it got chipped away a little bit, although we did a tremendous amount of traveling.

Ron Pales, ‘72: The itinerary, planned by Charles Moore, was a string of best moments one after another. John Hill, Charles Moore and Roger Lewis were the perfect mix and provided exactly the right amount of guidance.

Support from the Kea family covered expenses for the three faculty and half of the trip cost for each of the students.

Irwin “Chuck” Oler, ‘72: I went to my parents and said, “listen you pay 400 dollars, the university pays 400 and I’ll be gone for a month”. And they said, “You’ll be gone a month? That’s great!” So, it was easy to get them on board.

McInturff: [Professor] John Wiebenson got me a job at Skidmore, Owens and Merrill for half the summer, where I worked a lot of overtime and earned \$700 for the trip. As we were getting ready to go, they handed each of us this book of plane tickets; if you looked at the value of the tickets, it was roughly three times the cost of the trip. So, the Kea gift paid for a large portion of that trip.

Out of the 18 students in the class of 1972, fifteen—including just one of the two women in the class, Barbara Hill—attended the trip. Classmate Susan Notkins had just gotten married and didn’t attend. Rolando Sanz, a Cuban citizen, feared he would not be able to return to the U.S. Because spouses were not allowed on the trip, Ron Stupp also chose not to go; instead, he and his wife Susan bought a VW in Amsterdam that summer and followed the school itinerary throughout Europe.

Ronald Stup, ‘72: We spent two-and-a-half months on the road, from Amsterdam to Istanbul and back. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to benefit from seeing the “great buildings” with my class. Nevertheless, the memories of that trip have lasted a lifetime for me and Susan. It turned out to be one of our lives’ great experiences.

The group met at Washington National Airport on a balmy Wednesday morning, July 28, 1971. By that night, they were in London.

John Lucas, ‘72: I came from a small, poor rural waterfront town on the Eastern Shore. I had travelled little. The 747 flight to London was my first plane ride. It was all new to me.

Lewis: The 747 had just been put into service—I remember looking at this plane and thinking, this can’t possibly fly. I remember the long, long takeoff run of that 747 out of JFK, I mean it was so much bigger than anything we’ve ever been on.

Oler: We came into Heathrow, and we were just agape.

From July 28 to August 2, the students explored London and Amsterdam, acclimating to a new time zone and what would be a dizzying number of hotels and hostels. Everyone doubled up, with one notable exception.

Wayne Neale, ‘72: I remember the trip starting with John Hill and Barbara Hill booked into the same room together.

Lewis: I think what happened is the hotel people, they saw this this odd number of rooms and two Hills. So, they assumed there was some mistake, because these are all double rooms. It shows you how things have changed. There were only two women in the first class at Maryland. The last time I was out at the school for a review, it was 80% women.

Two days in Paris kicked off a five-day trip across the Loire Valley, seeing such notable works as Versailles, the cathedral in Orleans and the Abbey of Trinity in Vendome.

McInturff: I’d been to Europe two years earlier and, by amazing coincidence, we ended up staying on the same street in Paris. I taught everybody the French phrase “I want the red wine that’s the cheapest you have.”

Parker: I remember buying that dollar wine.

Lucas: Villa Savoye at Poissy made a huge impression on me. I had never been inside or even seen anything like it in person. It resonated. It is the epitome of European Modernism. I wonder if one can still buy a bottle of wine in Paris for fifty cents. Thanks for the tip, Mark.

Oler: Notre Dame just blew me away. Every cathedral we went to we walked up to the roof to get a better look at the buttresses. And at Notre Dame, it was a five hundred step walk. When it caught fire, I was sick to my stomach.

For almost all the students, this was their first time outside of the United States—many had not traveled much further than Baltimore. It was also the first trip abroad for Dean John Hill. The trip transformed images seen in a darkened College Park classroom into something students could walk inside and touch; seeing these places up close and how they fit within their environments, said Lewis, was eye-opening.

Parker: We would study something in our architectural history course, and I would have an image in my head of a church or building based on the slide. And then I saw it in real life. I mean the experience was totally different because it was in a place, on a street, in perspective with buildings around it. Everywhere I went it was just a discovery of these places—and they were all so different.

McInturff: I realized that the bigger and the more ornate places do not mean much to me. It was those kind of in-between places like the Alhambra and the Villa d’Este.



Above: Charles Moore

Lucas: The timeless, monumental and awe-inspiring ruins of Rome and the Athenian acropolis made such an impression that, though I didn’t recognize it for some time, they immensely influenced my work, research and teaching ever since.

France was followed in quick succession by a coast-to-coast tour of Italy, Greece, Istanbul, Tunisia and Spain. The group visited over 30 architectural sites—from the cities of Rome and Athens and enclaves of Mykonos to the ruins of Pompei and Spanish fortress complex of the Alhambra. Despite the packed itinerary, students also had plenty of time to venture off on their own.

McInturff: There were days where we were on our own and we often went off two or three of us in different directions. We’d just feel our way around.

ITINERARY

Washington National Airport, USA

London, United Kingdom

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Paris, France

Versailles, Paris

Fontainebleau, Paris

Orléans

Tours

Chambord, Centre-Val de Loire

Blois, Centre-Val de Loire

Ambouise, Centre-Val de Loire

Chenonceaux, Centre-Val de Loire

Tours

Azay-le-Rideau, Indre-et-Loire

Villandry Indre-et-Loire

Vendôme

Châteaux

Paris

Turin, Italy

Milano

Venice

Florence

Rome

Athens, Greece

Mykonos

Delos

Piraeus

Athens

Istanbul, Turkey

Tunis, Tunisia

Gabès

Matmata

Gabès

Djerba

Sfax

Tunis

Malaga, Spain

Granada

Washington National Airport, USA





Rug shopping at the bazaar in Tunisia.



Left to right, Ron Pales, Jon Barnes, Jamie Fishman, Stan Ryder.

Lewis: Every day I was the one concerned with making sure the students were showing up when they were supposed to and not getting arrested and so forth.

Neale: I can think of a half dozen other funny incidents, none of which are suitable for print.

Lucas: I vividly recall the labyrinthine bazaar at Istanbul. Endless vaulted tunnels crammed full of goods and foods... all to be bargained for. I am uncertain how Chuck, Bobby and I found our way out.

Oler: Before we left Italy, we caught a Verdi outdoor concert with a full orchestra. It was so cool, and the best part was meeting people from other countries; you realize how small you are and how important it is to remember how lucky we all were.

If the architecture were a feast for the senses, the trip's culinary adventures took care of the stomach. A 17-course meal in Amsterdam; a splurge on Chateaubriand in Tunisia; a rooftop dinner under of an illuminated Parthenon; a liquid lunch in Spain. One rule was clear: go local. Students were threatened with expulsion if they stepped foot in a McDonald's.

Lewis: Charles Moore was a serious foodie. Food and architecture—that was his life. The breakfast conversations would be, what are we going to do for lunch?

McInturff: Lunches were often planned. At one of the French places we went to, there was a sign in the window in French that said “no long hair.” And we walked in, this rag-tag group of students, looking like a rock band. There wasn't much they could do, there were too many of us.

Lucas: A shout out to Barbara [Hill], who not only had to put up with the boys but who had to put up with searching for food that she would not have an allergic reaction to.

Parker: In the evenings we'd get together and talk about what we'd seen that day. And I remember Charles Moore talking about what he did that day, and in my mind I was thinking, I went in the same place, and I didn't see any of that! If we were there for another day, I'd go through them all again and look for what he saw.

Oler: It was those times, sitting outside a restaurant just talking, that I cherished the most. We all saw things so differently. I think there were a few times I just got up from the table and went back, because I knew I wasn't coming back for a while.

With Moore, there were no trips to specific architectural sites—the whole journey was worth observing. One of the best-known architects in the world, he was habitual with

both the camera and the pen. He wrote his book, the Place of Houses, during the 1971 trip.

McInturff: All of Charlie's students loved him and all other architects knew who he was. You couldn't walk down the street in Rome without someone coming up to him exclaiming, “Charles!” And he would remember their name.

Parker: Charles Moore was given a camera and an unlimited amount of film. I had a camera and about \$10 worth of film, so I was being really cautious about what I shot, but he was shooting like crazy. There were times where I was standing side-by-side with him, taking pictures—where I may have shot a building, he shot the shadow of the palm tree along the side of the building. And I didn't see that shadow, I just tried to shoot the building. It opened my eyes to the possibility of seeing more.

McInturff: I think the thing about traveling with Charles Moore was that architecture was his whole life. It was present at lunch; it was present when we were walking around. It certainly rubbed off. I would say for some of us, that trip was a launch, in a way.

The inclusion of Tunisia on the trip's itinerary would have been improbable had Lewis not served there in the Peace Corps—and an impossibility today. Landing in Tunis, the students traveled south across the Sahara to see the underground dwellings and Indigenous architecture of Gabes, El-Djem, Matmata and Djerba. As Parker said, “it was like another planet.” Ironically, director George Lucas used the same dwellings just a few years later for Luke Skywalker's home planet of Tatooine in Star Wars.

Oler: You can imagine the shock. Years later, you're watching this movie and all of a sudden, it's like, whoa, we were standing right in there! It was amazing.

Parker: I think one of the things I learned from Tunisia was the beginnings of sustainability. The whole notion of thermal lag, digging down into the ground. I mean it was hot. In Matmata we went into these places [underground] and it was like air conditioning in there. And that was one thing I took away—working with what you have, to make something work for you.

McInturff: When I look back on Tunisia, I realize I will never be able to go back now. Some of those opportunities that we had we may not get again.

Lucas: The Sahara was amazing. The land, the climate, and the indigenes constructions. We rode in a bus, no AC, windows closed to keep out the hot air blast.

The trip was not without a few bumps. In Tunisia, the tour bus hit an elderly man on a bike navigating the narrow dirt



The Château de Chambord in Chambord, Centre-Val de Loire, France. Photo courtesy of Stan Ryder.

roads, threatening an international incident (he ultimately was unharmed). Steve Parker left his airline tickets and passport in a Tunisian post office, only to realize it an hour into the desert; he and Lewis flagged down a lone taxi driving in the opposite direction while the rest of the group waited an hour on the bus in 124-degree heat. A return boat trip from Mikonos encountered rough seas and rougher stomachs—everyone, including the crew—got sick. But the story most recalled with near-perfect, slightly embellished detail, was their stay at the Hôtel Transatlantique.

Lewis: The first night we were in Tunis at a hotel that the agent had booked for us. In the middle of the night there was a commotion—in the room where Mark McInturff was staying, apparently there was a bug. That freaked out Mark and he woke up everybody.

McInturff: There was a cockroach the size of a small bird in the bidet in my room.

Parker: He charged us admission to come in and see it.

Stan Ryder '72: I remember an enormous bug trapped under a glass in a terrible hotel in Tunis. [On] the return trip to Tunis [we stayed] at the Hilton with ice water on tap and drinks at the pool, which was quite an upgrade.

Pales: After enduring the Tunisian desert, and as the sweltering air rushed through the bus, the vote to transfer hotels to the Hilton and its swimming pool was unanimous.

Oler: We're at the Hilton and it was a nice hotel, right on the water. I'm talking to John (Lucas) and a couple of the guys in the hotel lobby, and I look up at this alcove near the ceiling and see a claw hanging over the side. And I'm like, holy s--t what is that? Then I see the whole thing and it's this enormous lizard. I was the only one who saw it.

On a Tuesday at the end of August, the weary group piled onto an Iberian Airlines flight to return to College Park by way of JFK. With the new building still under construction, the students returned to the Gulch and the Architecture Annex, a small white post-War building that temporarily housed the program. Surrounded by familiarity, in many respects, everything had changed.

McInturff: As a class, that trip gave us a group of memories and places that we could pull up and use, like a collective encyclopedia of places. Travel has always been important to me but that experience really cranked up that belief. In some ways, it inspires you to come back and do more work.

Parker: One thing it did for me, as a first-time traveler, is affirm that I can do this. I've had no fear since then.

I felt that I learned an independence out of it. I think I also became more aware of things—seeing things when you looked at a building or in a place. I looked at things differently after that trip than I did before that trip, certainly.

Lewis: I think it really made them all want to travel more and see more of the world.

Oler: We were a close-knit group because we were all going through the same thing. We were sort of test dummies—it was a new school and we all had to be fast on our feet and quick in our heads. Those friendships got even stronger on this trip. We got to see the professors and the dean in a different light. For me, that was the most meaningful impact.

Lucas: That experience has led me to seek out other such places to renew and intensify the feelings instilled there. I have since visited Machu Picchu, Giza, Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Tulum, Tikal... the list is long. And during my career I have had the opportunity to work on several significant memorial projects that I believe have their roots in that student experience.

Ryder: The architectural sites were unbelievable, but the people and crazy events are some of my lasting memories. I treasure the memories of the trip.

Pales: After all these years, I still recount some of our experiences to friends and family. Having seen so much firsthand enriched our architectural education beyond what we could have gotten in a classroom. I will be forever grateful to the school for providing that opportunity of a lifetime. ■



Above: Olivia Meoni (B.A. Anthropology '21) conducts photogrammetry at Sis's Tavern in North Brentwood, Maryland. The historic preservation project will combine the documented building with pictures and oral histories to develop an immersive online experience. Photo courtesy of Jelena Dakovic.

Reconstructing History in the Digital Age

Stefan Woehlke is Changing the Game of Preservation—by Making it One

Outside an unassuming, wood-framed building in North Brentwood, Maryland, Professor Donald Linebaugh spied something glinting in the dirt. Stooping over a newly turned mound of soil, he gingerly pulled it from the ground, a thick piece of glass commonly seen in bottles or sturdy barware, and undoubtedly a remnant of the building's storied past: a 20th century “juke joint” and neighborhood speakeasy called Sis's Tavern.

It's hard to imagine, thumbing the glass's smooth and dusty edge, what it was like at Sis's in its heyday, where jazz legends like Duke Ellington and Fats Domino riffed into the early morning hours—a refuge from the segregated clubs of Washington, D.C. But it might not be for much longer.

A documentation effort by Dr. Stefan Woehlke (Ph.D. Anthropology '21), Linebaugh and students of Maryland's Historic Preservation Program is leveraging 21st century tech to bring its Civil Rights-era history to life. Using photogrammetry and virtual reality (VR) gaming technologies, Woehlke is meshing a digital re-creation of the renovated building with old photographs, documents and oral histories to share the building's past through immersive

storytelling. When complete, the online experience, hosted through a dedicated website will be free and available to the public. A sneak peek at the first phase of model development is currently on the [UMD Digital Heritage Lab's SketchFab page](#).

“Sis's Tavern is a critical piece of North Brentwood's history that the community has been focusing on for years,” said Woehlke. “This digital effort seeks to raise awareness about Sis's and the rich history of North Brentwood.”

Built in 1912, Sis's Tavern was the first Black-owned commercial building in the town of North Brentwood. Originally a grocery store and luncheonette, it was leased to Marie “Sis” Walls in the 1950s and turned into a neighborhood speakeasy, a somewhat scandalous affront to the original covenant, which prohibited the sale of “intoxicating liquors.” Ellington, Domino, Pearl Bailey and other jazz greats were frequent patrons, often coming by after performances at the Howard Theatre and other D.C.-area lounges.

In the 1970s, the building was run as a members-only club, Baby Dee's, and later a barbershop. Vacant for over a decade, it was purchased by the town in 2016.

“It's such an iconic structure within our town because of its history and its transformation from a grocery to a speakeasy to a barber shop to what it's going to be in the future,” says North Brentwood Councilman Evan Dame, who is also a fourth-generation resident.

“Building” Out Sis's Story

The building blocks of Sis's new digital space are the result of laser scanning and photogrammetry, two high-precision, digital measurement technologies rapidly becoming go-to tools for developing high-resolution surveys and topographical maps. The technologies have gradually gained traction among historic preservationists in recent years, mainly for their capacity to document the shape of a structure down to the sub-millimeter, and at a fraction of the time of traditional methods. A grant secured by Woehlke in 2021 funded the purchase of a photogrammetry field kit to combine with the program's laser-scanning equipment. At Sis's, Olivia Meoni (B.A. Anthropology '21), plotted what look like oversized golf balls around the building to provide targets that help form hundreds of millions of spatial data points called a “point cloud.” When complete, the points are connected to form 3-D digital surfaces; a process called texturing adds realistic colors and depth.

But what sets this documentation apart from other heritage projects is the integration of gaming software. The final model will be uploaded into a gaming environment along with historic materials collected over the years by the town—including music, oral histories, documents and photos.

“It takes all of these assets and puts them together in one package,” said Woehlke. “The VR environment is a unique place for them to speak to one another and to the audience. Ultimately, it is a contribution to the town's heritage that will not only highlight the building's place in history, but why it should be preserved in the face of gentrification and increasing environmental risks.”

When complete, viewers will be able to digitally walk through the door of the modern Sis's Tavern and learn what it was like in 1912, 1962 or 2021 by interacting with any number of virtual assets placed throughout its game-like environment.

I'm a big video game guy so this really appeals to me,” says Dame. “The majority of our community doesn't know the rich history of North Brentwood as a whole, but specifically, Sis's. This project will literally bring its significance into focus.”

“We are at a tipping point.”

Historic preservation, says Woehlke, is in the midst of a fundamental transition from older methods of documentation to higher-tech digital technology. While tight budgets and high equipment costs have slowed the move to digital in practice, he says, coursework at Maryland is squarely looking to the future. Investments like the photogrammetry equipment and partnerships made across the university—with programs like the Anthropology Department, the Immersive Media Design Program, the iSchool and the A. James Clark School's UAS Test Site—are bringing more of this technology into the classroom, providing students a foundation for their future work in the field.

It can take years to master some of these technologies, said Woehlke; his objective is to give students the understanding and familiarity of a digital workflow and what a project might require, or how to assess the quality of a deliverable or if a proposal is realistic.

“We're trying to prepare students for where the field will be in five to ten years,” he says. “They don't need to know how to fly a drone, but they do need to understand and critically evaluate these technologies when they come across them in the field.”

Photo courtesy of Catherine Madsen.



Photogrammetry is also a way to accurately document a building that is at risk, says Linebaugh. Aggressive development or a lack of funding often results in the demolition of historically significant sites, while others are at the mercy of environmental threats and the ravages of time.

“Not every place can be saved, so we need to think outside of the box,” he said. “Documentation provides some mitigation of losing that history and can preserve at least a little bit of that story.”

Woehlke and his students used photogrammetry last spring to document Compton Bassett House in Prince George’s county, tapping UMD’s UAS Test Site and their fleet of drones for aerial documentation. The house, which is intrinsically tied to American history, the growth of the state and establishment of the University of Maryland, is rapidly deteriorating; it is unclear whether the county has the resources to restore it. The material the students produced—which includes high-resolution, three-dimensional views of the various buildings on the property—will be coupled with information and photographs as part of a digital museum, of sorts, for the public, the first of several historic sites Woehlke hopes to document for the county, ensuring that its historic integrity will remain intact for generations to come.

“It’s a unique way of preserving cultural heritage beyond bricks and mortar,” he says.

Unearthing Sis’s Past for Brentwood’s Future

Demolition will not be the fate of Sis’s, which is again reinventing itself—this time as a community space for residents of North Brentwood. An addition and full restoration were funded through grants secured by the town of North Brentwood and the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation in 2018. Being part of the restoration effort exposed Dame to the buildings’ significance in both Black and musical history; the digital history project by Woehlke and his students, he says, gives Brentwood the opportunity to solidify its place in those narratives.

“Just to think that people like Duke Ellington were just around the corner from me in one point

in history just blows my mind,” he says. “My hope is that projects like this help promote North Brentwood and give it more exposure. It’s such a great community and I can’t imagine being in a better place.”

Woehlke hopes the pilot project at Sis’s will fund future work to document the whole of North Brentwood, the first predominately Black community in Prince George’s County and second in the state. In addition to a traditional survey and laser scan of the whole town, he has plans for more detailed photogrammetry documentation of other significant buildings and future archaeological excavations, including the original Methodist church and Dame’s own home, originally owned by his great-grandfather, Maryland’s first Black justice of the peace; remnants of a basement holding cell still exist.

“It’s just a treasure,” said Woehlke. “There are so many good stories in North Brentwood.”

Similar to work at Compton Bassett, Woehlke sees these projects as a vehicle to increase collaborations across the University of Maryland campus—and with other research partners across the state, including Bowie State and Morgan State University—forming an ecosystem for creating experiences that preserve and connect with the past.

“There’s a huge amount of potential there; it’s trailblazing really,” he said. “As archeologists, preservationists and historic architects, we’re trained to be able to see these things in our mind’s eye, but most people have a really hard time doing that. By making histories accessible and engaging with digital technologies, these experiences allow people to see things that they couldn’t otherwise imagine.”

Olivia Meoni (B.A. Anthropology '21) digging around Sis’s Tavern.



“My great-grandparents, my mother, they probably never would have thought that they’d even be able to tap into this information, and now they have a descendant who’s literally in a position to research their story, affirm their story, hopefully protect their family lineage ...I feel responsibility and a burden.

-BRITTNEY DRAKES

Photo courtesy of Stephanie S. Cordle /University of Maryland

A Rooted Return

Written by Sala Levin '10

Her ancestor was enslaved in Prince George’s County. Five generations later, a doctoral student is reinvigorating the area’s agricultural—and communal—ties.

In 1902, Robert Harrod Rr. signed the deed to own land in the very county where he had spent the beginning of his life legally owned and enslaved.

He bought 13 acres near present-day FedEx Field, which he farmed throughout his life, then divided into smaller parcels for each of his five children. Their legacy was cut off in the 1970s, however, when the state and Prince George’s County took ownership of the land as the result of unpaid property taxes.

Brittney Drakeford, a doctoral student in UMD’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, grew up in the county and recalls accompanying her mother and grandmother on drives where they’d pass a particular stretch of land, vacant and wild. They’d always point out that it had once belonged to Brittney’s great-great-great-grandfather.

When Harrod owned it, the land had fronted a street called Harrod Road or Harrod Avenue. Now, the overgrown road is called Deputy Lane. “To literally see this complete erasure—it made me furious,” Drakeford says.

It’s an erasure that Drakeford, at least the sixth generation of her family to live in Prince George’s County, is set on halting. Despite the county’s rich agricultural history, many of its residents now lack access to fresh food and are disconnected from the land seeded for centuries with a painful history. As a senior planner with the county and community leader, Drakeford is determined to remedy that. Through her volunteer efforts developing a neighborhood garden, opening farmers markets and helping churches become hubs for nourishment, Drakeford is building a community empowered in its relationship to the environment.

“My great-grandparents, my mother, they probably never would have thought that they’d even be able to tap into this information, and now they have a descendant who’s literally in a position to research their story, affirm their story, hopefully protect their family lineage,” she says. “I feel responsibility and a burden.”

Read Drakeford’s full story in the Spring issue of TERP Magazine.

UMD Initiative to Help Businesses of Color Survive—and Thrive—Despite Neighborhood Change



Anika Hobbs, owner of Nubian Hueman. Photo courtesy of Sid Espinosa ('20).

The view from Nubian Hueman, a clothing and home décor boutique in Washington, D.C.'s Anacostia neighborhood, has shifted. Over the past five years, owner Anika Hobbs has seen more cranes and construction crews, as well as a change in the people that walk past her storefront: Once mostly Black, they are now more frequently white.

"Right now, Anacostia is under the threat of major gentrification," she said. "We cater to people of color, so what is that going to look like when the neighborhood changes?"

As development dollars pour into historically neglected communities across the country, erased with those neighborhood blocks are often the people and businesses that inhabit them. Now a national initiative from the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth seeks to help small businesses like Hobbs' withstand rapid neighborhood change.

Launched last spring through a \$3 million philanthropic investment from JP Morgan Chase, [The Small Business Anti-Displacement Network \(SBAN\)](#) is galvanizing over 100 small business leaders to evaluate and share successful place-based interventions, and to create tools and push

policies to prevent the displacement or closure of vulnerable businesses.

"This project will help fill the gaps in the research on how commercial displacement occurs and who is most impacted," said urban planning Associate Professor Willow Lung Amam, SBAN's director and principal investigator. "It will also identify strategies that will help these businesses not only remain open, but ultimately thrive in a rapidly changing neighborhood."

SBAN is the first community of practice in the nation to focus on compiling on-the-ground strategies for small businesses facing displacement, such as commercial tax credits, commercial rent control and legacy business protections, by evaluating their rate of success.

The project prioritizes businesses owned by immigrants and people of color, which have been particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. In the early months of the pandemic, 41% of [Black businesses closed, a rate twice the national average](#), while 32% of Latinx businesses were shuttered. Hobbs, who also owns a store in Baltimore, saw significant losses in the early months of the pandemic, including \$20,000 from a cancelled event.

"It's been a huge challenge for a business this size," she said.

Last fall, SBAN released a catalog of more than 20 implementable strategies for small business leaders to tackle the unique challenges of small businesses and protect those most vulnerable, highlighting best practices from across the country. The [interactive toolkit](#) outlines existing programs and innovative approaches, specifics on implementation, strengths and challenges and provides examples of how these strategies have been used on the ground.

"Most of these businesses and organizations work in silos," explained SBAN Project Manager Kiara Garland. "People are inundated with the work so they don't have the ability to necessarily share what they're doing. The toolkit can help those small business leaders access strategies to very specific challenges they might be facing and offers action items they can implement right now."

Doctoral candidate Nohely Alvarez has worked for years with Lung-Amam just a few miles west of campus in Langley Park, Maryland, and joined her and Garland this year as part of SBAN. She explains that immigrant-owned businesses are often at a unique disadvantage; language barriers, for instance, can muddle their understanding of their rights as business owners or tenants, and can hamper access to opportunities, such as technical tools and grants. A history of discriminatory practices by banks, she says, still resonates with many minority-owned small businesses.

"There aren't the same opportunities granted to a lot of these small-owned businesses that are afforded to bigger companies," she says. "Bringing these businesses together and connecting them with resources like the toolkit, we hope, can help them succeed in the face of these vulnerabilities."

Garland emphasizes that the toolkit—and its [companion report](#) for local organizations and policymakers—is more



Right now, Anacostia is under the threat of major gentrification,we cater to people of color, so what is that going to look like when the neighborhood changes?

— ANIKA HOBBS



than just a resource for small business leaders: it is a call to action. As SBAN continues to expand its national network of business owners, policymakers, scholars and community stakeholders, the toolkit will also continue to grow, taking advantage of the expertise of its extensive network of members from across the country.

"This is a jumping off point," she says.

SBAN dovetails with existing work by Lung-Amam and her colleagues at NCSG, which is housed at UMD's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. In 2013, the NCSG launched the Purple Line Corridor Coalition, a network of more than 40 organizations collaborating to forge equitable, sustainable strategies and policies to retain residents and vulnerable small businesses along Maryland's Purple Line light-rail corridor.

Subsequent phases of SBAN's work will include devising strategies for metropolitan areas facing less intense pressures by putting protections in place before commercial displacement begins.

"Minority- and immigrant-owned small businesses are a vital source of economic and social wellbeing in communities of color," said Lung-Amam. "But, when development, higher-income residents and larger, well-capitalized businesses come to town, they are often the first businesses to go."

Businesses already seeing steel girders on their skylines, like Nubian Hueman, are hoping SBAN's work will help cement their community footprint.

"For us, a lot of it is strategy—how can we fit in a new fabric?" said Hobbs. "How do we stay valued and recognized in a geography area that's changing? We need those long-term strategies." ■

Photo courtesy of Sid Espinosa ('20).

Illustrations by
Valeria Morgan.

Get the stories
behind the design
of UMD's iconic
campus buildings
by exploring
the map
here."

A Campus Legacy, by Design

Architecture Alums Shaped 25+ UMD Buildings—and Counting



It is said that the first whispers of democracy were uttered on the steps of Athens' Ancient Agora. Considered the birthplace of public discourse, the Agora was a rally point for philosophers and farmers, politicians and merchants to debate the tenets of culture, politics and economics that shaped democratic thought. So, it might not be surprising that, when tasked with envisioning UMD's new School of Public Policy, architect and UMD alumna Irena Savakova (M.ARCH '96) turned to the Agora for inspiration.

Savakova has walked the site, nestled between Baltimore Avenue, the Armory and Chapel Hill, many times: first as a student in the 1990s, while she was obtaining her second Master of Architecture degree and, more recently, as vice president and global design principal for Washington, D.C. design firm Leo A Daly. She helped land the contract for the school's new building by coming to the table ready to listen, with one of the only proposals presented that was not a complete solution. A collaborative design process and her team's careful consideration of campus input is reflected in a number of touches throughout the school's new home.

"This building will become history one day," said Savakova, who serves as the design principal on the project. "My goal was to offer a window into the past and an invitation into the future, where people can have discussions and come up with the ideas that will impact our world."

Savakova is among an elite group of alumni who have returned to the University of Maryland to make impact—through bricks and mortar, glass facades and contoured marble. Beginning with Thomas Eichbaum ('74), who helped design Van Munching Hall in 1992, architecture alumni have lent their inspiration and talent to UMD's fabric, conceiving designs for over 25 campus buildings, not including countless additions and renovations, along with projects throughout Greater College Park and over a dozen master plans.

Their inspiration has come from unlikely sources: a memory or milestone, a moment in history, nature, even a vexing challenge. We got behind the bricks-and-mortar to learn what drove the design of some of Maryland's most iconic spaces—and a few on the way. Explore the interactive map from the [Spring 2021 issue of TERP Magazine, here.](#) ■

PLANNING A CAMPUS

Master plans offer a window to the future:

They make space for potential programming and more students, stitch together the components of campus life and envision where people will congregate, park or grab a cup of coffee. And in the case of College Park, they can extend beyond the campus gates to create a vibrant college town.

While architecture faculty, administrators and alums have all played significant roles in shaping the University of Maryland and Greater College Park since the early 1990s, a few have remained constants in the equation, including Assistant Director of Campus Development William Mallari (B.ARCH '80) and Architect and Planner Daniel Hayes (MHP '17), who have collectively overseen nearly a dozen master plans and countless studies and have served as the collaborative glue between administration and campus architects. "This specialized form of institutional physical planning is a unique species and a long game," says Mallari. "It doesn't happen in a vacuum. We lead, we follow and we collaborate toward places and spaces that hopefully shape and influence the experience and growth of students, faculty, staff and general public."

In 1997, then-Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening took the rare step of signing legislation to curb the sprawl of development impacting the state. It was considered one of the most aggressive and innovative “smart growth” strategies in the country. An offshoot of this effort was the establishment of the University of Maryland’s National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) in 2001, a state-backed academic hub designed to employ the research and collaborative might of a university to address the smart-growth challenges plaguing communities, policymakers and government agencies.

Glendening envisioned an ally in advancing smarter, more sustainable development across the state, and a chance

to serve as a global model for creating enhanced quality of life. Twenty years later, the NCSG continues to deliver on that vision; under the leadership of Gerrit Knaap, and through the work of dozens of faculty, researchers and graduate assistants, the NCSG has been an authority for equitable development, smart cities, fair housing and transportation issues.

As the NCSG heads into its third decade, we share the stories behind 10 notable events from the center’s past—headline grabbing moments, revolutionary projects and impact—from the people who were there:

2001

National Center for Smart Growth established

2003

Hitting the Bricks: The idea behind the Reality Check project was simple: Experts projected 2 million new residents and 1.6 million new jobs for the greater Washington area—what they didn’t know, was how or where that growth would impact the region. So, in 2003, ULI Washington, in partnership with NCSG, Virginia Tech and Criterion Consulting, tapped the unique perspectives of 300 leaders within the region’s public and private sectors. Looking for something more hands-on than computers to spark conversations, someone suggested Legos: Standard in size and easy to move around large maps draped over each table, the plastic bricks, which represented jobs and households, were the tactile link to understanding regional growth over the next 30 years, later paired with GIS to demonstrate different scenarios.

“I don’t even remember how we got them, maybe from someone’s basement,” said University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Professor Arnab Chakraborty (Ph.D. ’07). “This was not the first time Legos have been used for regional visioning, but this was probably one of the first times they’ve been connected to data collection and visualization, which let us do some on-the-fly analysis. No one is going to make a policy decision based on where someone randomly put a Lego. But the impact helped us get a sense of the scale of the projected growth and pinpoint areas of agreement that might be worth planning for.”

Study links urban sprawl to obesity



2006

10-Year Gut Check and the Heartburn-Inducing Headline: For her first assignment as a graduate assistant for NCSG, Rebecca Lewis (M.P.P.’08, Ph.D.’11) helped center researchers perform a gut check on the first decade of Maryland’s smart growth program—specifically, the effectiveness of programs like Priority Funding Areas and their impact on development patterns. They found that state incentives were not strong enough to convince local governments and developers to curb suburban sprawl.

Portions of the report were presented to academics and county and state agencies at a two-day conference organized by the center in 2007. But the report also caught the eye of The Washington Post, whose headline proclaimed, “Study Calls Md. Smart Growth a Flop,” spurring a rebuttal from Glendening that the state “must do better.”

“Obviously [the headline] was not what we intended and lost the nuance of our findings and recommendations,” says Lewis, now associate professor at the University of Oregon. “But we knew this story was really important for understanding policy and implementation and, if the program isn’t working, to figure out ways to make it better. It was treading a difficult line, but I think Gerrit saw it as his job as center director to check up on whether this program was working or not. We were doing what the smart growth center was set up to do, I think, which was to keep tabs on implementation and help move policy decisions forward.”



2007

Modeling How Marylanders Move: In 2007, the State Highway Administration decided to build an enhanced transport model to cover regions outside the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. Baltimore’s model was expanded to all of Maryland, with a “halo” added around Maryland to better represent cross-border traffic. The National Center for Smart Growth became the academic lead, where Knaap, Assistant Professor Kelly Clifton and postdoc Nikhil Kasat (M.I.M.’15) took the lead on implementation. Rolf Moeckel supported the team for Parsons Brinckerhoff, who was the main contractor to build the statewide model.

“Uri Avin, who back then was with Parsons Brinckerhoff, wanted to call the statewide model MASTAMOD,” said Moeckel, who later completed his postdoc at NCSG and is now an associate professor of travel behavior at the Technical University of Munich. “Luckily, Gerrit intervened.”



2011

Makeover Montgomery launched with Montgomery County Department of Planning

Maryland Smart Indicators Project

Sustainable Maryland Certified launched

2012

STAR Project

Maryland Scenario Project

2013

Ensuring Equity Beyond the Tracks: The Maryland Transit Authority’s proposal to build an east-west light-rail line to connect spokes of Washington’s Metrorail and bridge five distinct communities across Montgomery and Prince George’s counties brought celebration, controversy and questions. Among them: Would the people in its path be there to benefit when the trains leave the stations? In 2013, the NCSG organized a coalition of advocates, county leaders, nonprofits and community stakeholders called the Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC) to lead efforts that would ensure equitable, sustainable development along the 16-mile path. With substantial groundwork by NCSG’s Kimberly Ross, Knaap and now, Sheila Somashekhar, the PLCC examines best practices from transit-oriented projects across the country to put forth inventive, research-backed and thoughtful strategies for maintaining equitable housing, supporting small businesses, and creating job opportunities along the corridor.

“The UMD NCSG has provided a tremendous service to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region as a lead convener of the Purple Line Corridor Coalition,” said David Bowers, president of Enterprise Community Partnership. “NCSG has been an honest broker organizing collaboration, providing high quality research and analysis. The conscientious leadership and team at NCSG have ensured the coalition has kept its focus on working for equitable transit-oriented development that benefits all who live along the Purple Line corridor.”

2014

Making Terps True PALS for Maryland: In 2013, Gerrit Knaap pitched a radical idea making waves on the West Coast to John Griffin, then-chief of staff to Gov. Martin O'Malley: take the expertise and ingenuity happening in UMD's classrooms and apply them first-hand in Maryland communities, with students and faculty tackling real-world challenges in economic, social and environmental sustainability. Modeled after the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program, the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program launched in 2014 in the city of Frederick, with financial backing from UMD's provost and the Town Creek Foundation. In short order, PALS became the largest program of its kind in the country, engaging over 2400 students and 180 courses for cities and counties across the state, including longstanding partnerships with Prince George's County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

"Planners, faculty and students have worked together on over 15 projects that have covered a range of timely and prominent issues, such as food security, transit-oriented development, historic resources and placemaking initiatives," said M-NCPPC Planning Director Andree Checkley. "All of them have provided a direct benefit to the department and, most importantly, the communities in which we work. This has been a true town-and-gown approach to learning and solutions."

2015

Mapping a Path to Opportunity: In 2015, NCSG researches collaborated on a regional plan for sustainable development in the Baltimore area that leveraged the NCSG's unique "opportunity maps": Color-coded blueprints that helped stakeholders to geographically visualize areas of racial segregation and poverty as well as job centers, transit and good schools. Slicing the Baltimore region into categories based on challenge and opportunity, the team proposed place-based and mobility strategies that could be applied at a neighborhood scale; their housing assessment offered one of the first test cases for the Obama administration's fair housing regulations.

"Sometimes the housing debate gets bifurcated," said Professor Casey Dawkins, who is currently on a fellowship with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "On the one hand are people who look at the geographic disparity of opportunity and advocate for vouchers so they can move to better neighborhoods. On the other side are people advocating for community improvement for where low-income people are already living. This plan acknowledged that it's not that simple, that you need a combination of both."

2015

The Project that Expected the Unexpected: One of the center's most important and high-profile projects, Prospects for Regional Sustainability Tomorrow (PRESTO), applied a unique suite of models developed by NCSG researchers to examine how uncertain phenomena, from climate change to millennial behavioral preferences, could play out and impact regional development. The four scenarios developed by the research team, which included Knaap, Research Professor Uri Avin and Research Assistant Dan Engelberg (M.C.P.'18), were radically different, allowing the plug-and-play of existing or potential policies to see how they interact, what works and what sort of future they create. Funded by Maryland's Town Creek Foundation and centered on the Baltimore-Washington region, the work has since spurred new projects, most recently how COVID-19 has altered travel behavior.

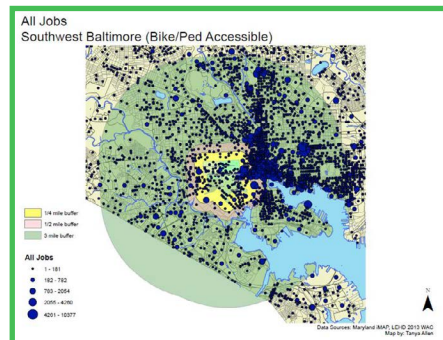
"The work put the center on the international map of think tanks capable of exploring regional sustainability for land use, transportation and greenhouse gases in an integrated, quantitative way," said Avin. "PRESTO's legacy can now be found in a number of spinoff areas and public and nonprofit clients, including smart city technologies, health impacts and cost-effective transportation and transit investments."

2016

Campus Community Connection Established

Getting WMATA "On Board": In 2015 and 2016, Professor Hiro Iseki, Chao Liu (Ph.D. '12) and Knaap developed a landmark model for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA), using origin-destination data to determine how area connectivity, location of jobs and housing and transit fares affect ridership demand. The model clearly established the connection between land use and connectivity factors, serving as the foundation for a web-based tool that WMATA created to lobby for street connectivity improvements. While lauded by the board, the second portion of the study—which recommended hiking fares in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs to raise revenue—was not as well-received by WMATA's Maryland and Virginia board members.

"The board has a policy that decisions must be unanimous to be approved," said Iseki. "So, it was not approved."



2016

EDA Center moves to NCSG

2018

Smart Cities for All: In 2018, NCSG and the College of Information Studies (iSchool) launched a two-year, campus-wide initiative to develop a framework for research, education and public engagement in smart cities and urban analytics. Co-PIs Knaap and Vanessa Frias-Martinez (iSchool) leveraged a planning grant from the NSF's Smart and Connected Communities Program to concentrate work on the Smart Cities Initiative in two underserved areas: along the Baltimore Avenue corridor and in the city of Baltimore. The team of technical and social scientists from four area universities worked in West Baltimore to create an asset- and place-based method for developing a strategic plan for smart city investment that would meet community needs. Neighborhood-level conversations revealed longstanding priorities to shape future work: community safety without surveillance; access to jobs and opportunity, especially through transportation; and access to residential broadband.

"These projects demonstrate a beautiful balance between the creation of new knowledge, applied action and community advocacy," said Smart Cities Initiative staff member Tara Burke. "Future work by the SCI team has the potential to really make a difference in digital equity advocacy—the newest asymmetric, equity frontier."

2019

International Partnerships: Since its inception, NCSG has recruited research talent from around the world for unique expertise on land-use challenges, transportation, housing and planning for a rapidly changing world. These faculty researchers have also brought budding international collaborations, from crisis work in Japan to reforming the planning system in Israel. NCSG has hosted conferences and workshops in Italy, France, Croatia, the Netherlands and throughout China. Today, NCSG and the International Centre for Local and Regional Development, an Irish research organization, are studying the effect of COVID-19 on work-life balance, commuting, placemaking and community in towns and cities in Maryland and Ireland.

"Maryland and the island of Ireland have a similarly educated workforce, challenges with rural development and advanced economies," said Nicholas Finio, associate director of NCSG. "Both places can learn from each other about how planners are adapting to our rapidly changing societies to best improve well-being for all residents, regardless of where they call home or how they get to work."

2021

Small Business Anti-Displacement Network launched

NCSG marks 20-year anniversary



Left to right: Dan Kellman (M.C.P. '17), Eli Knaap (Ph.D. '16), Gerrit Knaap, Willow Lung-Amam (M.C.P. '07) and Nick Finio (M.C.P. '15).

NCSG alums are accomplished and far-flung, working at research powerhouses like the University North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; the Department of Transportation; the University of Oregon; HUD; the World Bank; University of California; Seoul National; Syracuse University; and University at Brisbane.



As part of their path to SM certification, the Town of Bel Air employed goats from a local farmer to clear invasive plant species from Rockfield Park. (Photo courtesy of the Town of Bel Air, Md.)

Electric Cars, Community Gardens and Hungry Goats

How UMD’s Sustainable Maryland Program Has Helped Maryland Towns Go Green

Gaze across the sprawling field of solar panels just west of Annapolis, and it’s hard to imagine that, just underneath, lies 80 acres of trash. Annapolis Solar Park is the largest solar project built on a capped landfill in the United States, cutting the city’s electric bill more than \$100,000 a year—and, for Annapolis, it is part of a larger effort to create a greener, healthier community.

The city has had help. Annapolis is one of 85 municipalities and homeowner’s associations across the state enrolled in Sustainable Maryland (SM), a no-cost “greening” program from the University of Maryland’s Environmental Finance Center (EFC). Now marking its 10th anniversary, SM has mobilized sustainability efforts from New Carrollton to North Beach by connecting municipalities with funding opportunities, training, expertise and a tight-knit network of peer communities.

“Avenues to execute sustainability projects, like launching a farmer’s market or promoting a local business district, are essential for economic stability and quality of life in local communities,” said Sustainable Maryland Program Manager Mike Hunninghake. “Racial inequity and climate change bring additional challenges to municipalities that are already under-resourced; many just don’t have the funding

or expertise to tackle a flooding issue or create a tree canopy program. What we try and do is bridge that gap, by providing assistance and access to opportunity.”

Sustainable Maryland currently engages 54% of all Maryland municipalities—including the state’s 10 most populous cities—across 20 counties. In Prince George’s County alone, SM works with 26 of the 27 municipalities. The program guides local stakeholders in developing individual, tailored sustainability plans that prioritize green initiatives and pinpoint where best to funnel resources. With over 100 greening actions for communities to choose from, SM is a “choose your own adventure” in sustainability that equates to big numbers for Maryland—shrinking carbon footprints, protecting waterways and building resilient, healthier places to live.

“Sustainability has become a way of life for us, and having Sustainable Maryland help us develop a plan each year keeps us on track,” said Rod Barnes, town administrator for Edmonston, Maryland. Edmonston has leveraged SM’s guidance, training and network to develop \$4.2 million in successful grants, funding 28 rain gardens, three public fruit orchards, a pet waste program and more.

Membership in the program has its privileges: SM’s network connects local stakeholders with funding opportunities and workshops, as well as faculty and student assistance for a variety of technical projects, from creating a carbon

reduction blueprint to conducting an energy audit. The rapidly-growing network of municipalities is a hub for inspiration and best practices; when Landover Hills wanted to create a composting and food waste collection program, SM connected the town’s mayor, Jeff Schomisch, with Berwyn Heights, which had successfully launched a similar program.

“Mike and his team have connected us with other communities to build off what’s already been done, so we’re not reinventing the wheel,” said Schomisch. “There are a lot of towns that are in the same boat as us. We all want to make our communities better places to live.”

Modeled after the Sustainable New Jersey program, Sustainable Maryland was a collaboration between the EFC, the Maryland Municipal League and UMD’s National Center for Smart Growth in 2011 to share applied technical assistance and cost-effective strategies with Maryland communities looking to launch small- and large-scale sustainability initiatives. Sustainable Maryland currently does not receive any state funding, relying on grants and support from partners like the Maryland Municipal League.

Residents play a big part in creating the goals for certification, but also in setting those plans into motion. Amanda Dewey, mayor of Berwyn Heights, who started her service to the town as a member of Berwyn Heights’ Green Team, says that the program has provided a framework for bringing people together and the resources to make the town’s goals a reality, particularly for staff-strapped government offices.

“Staff capacity for small towns—and there are so many in Maryland—is so limited,” she said. “So, if we want to look at tree canopy issues or put together a carbon footprint report, we can draw on the professional expertise at the University of Maryland.”

Sustainability actions culminate in certification and a ceremony; the program currently boasts 45 certified municipalities. But for most, it is just the beginning. Since its inception, SM has had 36 municipalities certify more than once.

“You can bet that if there is trash in one of the raingardens, I’m getting a call,” said Barnes. “Our residents see the results these projects bring to the community and it’s a real point of pride.”

“Composting, LED lighting, rain gardens; it all adds up,” said Hunninghake. “It’s not just one town working alone, it’s all of these towns working to make Maryland more sustainable and to have a collective impact on the planet. And, over 10 years, those numbers are significant.”



Infographic by Valerie Morgan

News at MAPP

Projects, Research and Events, 2020-2021

Connecting Pieces of Virginia's Lost History

A Chesapeake Material Cultural Studies Grant from The Conservation Fund helped students literally piece together the past of Virginia's Kippax Plantation, part of a 40-year, ongoing study by Donald Linebaugh. The process, called vesselization, had [students painstakingly analyzing and reconstructing thousands of glass and ceramic pieces](#) found on the property, which shed light on Kippax's history, culture and people over centuries, from the original owners Robert Bolling and Jane Rolfe— granddaughter of Pocahontas—to the enslaved who worked the land. This latest activity added to an estimated 950 pieces already identified by the team this year.

UMD Wins Big at NAIOP Regional Real Estate Competition

A team of four graduate students from the University of Maryland's Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development [took first place](#) in the NAIOP

DC | MD 2021 Capital Challenge, an intercollegiate real estate competition for the Washington, D.C. area. Weishi Zhang, John Plachta, Sharmin Davoodian and William Christian beat out three other collegiate teams and took home \$10,000 with their wellness-centered luxury hotel development proposal in Tyson's Corner.

Urban Planning Studio Puts Down Roots for Baltimore's South Seven

A report developed last year by urban studies and planning students outlined a plan for "greening" urban communities through [small-scale, big-impact investments](#) that are feasible in everyday city neighborhoods. Developed in partnership with the Baltimore City Planning Department and with input from over a dozen community-based agencies and organizations, the report offered physical and programmatic strategies for the revitalization of Baltimore's "South Seven" neighborhoods (SB7), such as "greening" alleyways or extending pedestrian trails, to kickstart more-equitable forms of revitalization in historically disinvested neighborhoods.

(Below) Winners of the 2021 NAIOP Capital Challenge. (Left to right) Sharmin Davoodian (MRED '21), William Christian III, faculty advisor Ron McDonald, Director of the Real Estate Development Program Maria Day-Marshall, Weishi Zhang (MRED '21) and John Plachta. Photo courtesy of Carrie Chard.

Eco-Technologies are Design's New Frontier in Spring Pilot Studio

Could the future of sustainable building design be built on straw, vines and tree bark? A Spring 2021 pilot architecture studio explored whether technologies derived from the planet hold the secret to saving it. Developed by Associate Professor of Architecture Jana VanderGoot, the [new studio](#) challenged graduate architecture students to apply "eco-technologies"—such as microalgae, compacted soil and downcycled steel—to create a bio-wall. Considered a holistic approach to design gaining traction in an increasingly volatile climate, bio-walls capitalize on natural processes to conserve, adapt and respond to surrounding environments, cleaning air and water, growing food, insulating against the cold and supporting wildlife.

New Project Offers How-To for Healthier Cities

A growing body of evidence shows that green infrastructure can transform human mental and physical health. What is less understood is how to translate these findings into the practice of planning healthier cities. [A partnership launched this past year between UMD's Environmental Finance Center \(EFC\), the American Planning Association \(APA\) and the University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Sciences](#) hopes to offer guidance for planners, healthcare organizations and policymakers on the spatial characteristics of urban forests and other green spaces that can maximize community health benefits. The project team hopes these principles of practice will be particularly useful in the planning and management of urban forests in what they call High Potential Communities; these groups, which include low-income and minority communities, are historically disinvested, yet are at a greater risk for health issues.

Bostwick's "pain in the buttress" Once Again Takes Shape:

Completed in 2021, the [two-year documentation project](#) of the buttress at Bostwick House—one of the few examples of a buttress added to a home in the United States—will provide engineers and restorationists a blueprint for rebuilding the 18th century brick support, shoring it up for centuries to come.

Cross-Continental "Global Classroom" Examines the State of Affordable Housing

A [new affordable housing global classroom](#) between the University of Maryland Real Estate Development Program and the Nelson Mandela University Department of Building and Human Settlement Development offered students a primer for creating just and sustainable affordable housing and exploring the challenges of finding shelter on a global scale. Launched this past fall, the program allowed Maryland and South African students to explore topics critical to understanding the history and enduring challenges of affordable housing—including the systemic racism that has marred both countries—and to explore opportunities and solutions through shared perspectives.





Above: Students in Amy Gardner, Julie Gabielli and Patricia Rhee's ARCH 600 studio used a drone to scan the landscape of their project site—the beaches of Assateague Island—to help create this amazing topographical model, which is informing their designs for a new climate-resilient public space.

Surviving a Sea Change: Students Help Assateague Island Find Resilience Through Adaptation

The biggest threat to the shorelines of Maryland's Assateague State Park isn't the throngs of tourists or galloping hooves of its wild horses; it is climate change, the effects of which are eroding the island's iconic beaches, dunes and diverse habitat. This past year, [two new design studios](#) from the University of Maryland's Architecture Program examined how the park can ride the wave of change, rather than fight the tide. Working with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and UMD's [Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability](#) (PALS) program, students developed architecture and landscape design plans—including a resiliency master plan and two public structures—that adapt with the island's increasingly dynamic conditions, offering hope of resiliency for Assateague's visitors, wildlife and fragile ecology.

First-Ever Symposium Puts Marginalized Cultural Heritage Work Front and Center

For decades, some of the most groundbreaking work happening in historic preservation was not written about, taught in classrooms or captured by the mainstream: Only 8% of National Register sites and 3% of our National Historic Landmarks represent people of color, women or members of the LGBTQ community. Last January, over 30 practitioners, academics, community advocates and policymakers gathered to highlight the important work poised to change what—and how—cultural heritage is preserved. “Re-Centering the Margins: Justice and Equity in Historic Preservation,” a two-day symposium developed by UMD Presidential Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Michelle Magalong, highlighted the research, work and perspectives of BiPOC, women and queer practitioners working to address equity and justice in practice, and brought the untold stories of marginalized cultural heritage to the fore.

[Watch Re-Centering the Margins, here.](#)

A Future Worth Planning: Joint Studio Identifies Strategies for Ensuring a Just, Sustainable Montgomery County Community

[A joint fall studio](#) between urban planning and historic preservation students imagined what life could look like for one suburb in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 2040—under three very different sets of circumstances—to help county planners forge a sustainable vibrant life for its residents. Part of the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability Program (PALS), the project leveraged detailed trend analysis, community input and scenario planning to envision the suburb of Fairland/Briggs Chaney in advance of its revamped master plan, identifying “revolutionary” strategies that prioritize green space, equitable housing, new jobs and emissions-free multi-modal transportation, while weaving the community's history into its built environment.



If you build it, they will come: Architecture students put Lot 1's “field of asphalt” in the crosshairs last fall for a proposed Western Gateway to University of Maryland's College Park campus in advance of the Purple Line. Led by Architecture Professor Matthew Bell, the students offered new visions for a second college town main street that commandeers the lackluster west campus entrance and sea of parking, and reimagines a sprawling mall, transit-oriented commercial and academic buildings along with more student and faculty housing. *(Above) A proposed concept, above, by architecture students Will Eckard, Danielle Abe and Austin Toth shows an urban edge along the upcoming Purple Line.*



Featuring a keynote discussion with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, journalist and author of [Red Famine](#), [Anne Applebaum](#), **Marking Loss, Making Memorials**, a half-day November symposium curated by Ronit Eisenbach, looked at how we commemorate tragedy in public space, pulling the perspectives of authors, historians and practitioners to discuss issues around marking loss, memorial design, memorializing events of historical violence and shedding light on untold stories. *(Left) A student sketches Anne Applebaum during the symposium.*

Notable Research:

In a new article for the *Journal of Planning Literature*, National Center for Smart Growth Associate Director and doctoral candidate Nicholas Finio [conducts a literary deep dive on the decades of research generated around gentrification](#)—from theories on what causes gentrification and how it is defined, to how it is measured and its enduring consequences. The review offers a reference to point researchers and policymakers toward factors that, ideally, they should include when attempting to measure the phenomenon.

A [new study](#) by Ming Hu and American Council for An Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Senior Director of Research Nora Wang Efram reveals a lack of U.S. standards for evaluating and measuring embodied carbon—the greenhouse gas emissions that result from mining, manufacturing, transporting, installing and disposing of building materials—leaving an incomplete road map for reducing emissions created by buildings. The study, released as a white paper by ACEEE and appearing in *Sustainability* last month, offers the most thorough examination to date of current methods for gauging embodied carbon, and a call to action for policymakers and industry leaders to close the knowledge gaps hampering new and effective building energy codes.

A study by Associate Professor Willow Lung-Amam, doctoral candidate Nohely Alvarez and Howard University Professor Rodney Green suggests that creating safer Black and Latinx neighborhoods doesn't require more policing, but more investment. [The research](#), published last fall in the *Journal of Community Practice*, examined outcomes of a four-year crime reduction project in Langley Park, Maryland, demonstrating that more streetlights, mental health services, youth outreach and public art are as important—and likely more effective—at boosting community safety in immigrant neighborhoods than programs designed to build trust with local police.

[A report](#) by the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth and Enterprise Community Partners found that affordable housing stock in Maryland has not kept pace with the state's growing number of low-income households, and that state and local leaders must accelerate their efforts to meet Maryland's diverse housing needs. Commissioned by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MDHCD), the report outlines the housing needs and obstacles facing Maryland renters and homeowners and provides a framework to guide state and local investments across Maryland over the next 10 years.



Photo courtesy of Hyattsville Community Development Corp.



Faculty News

Professor **Casey Dawkins** spent this fall on sabbatical as a Scholar in Residence with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His book, *Just Housing: The Moral Foundations of American Housing Policy*, was released in August by MIT Press. He is currently working on the 12th edition of *Contemporary Urban Planning* with former MAPP Dean Sonia Hirt and original author John Levy for Routledge.

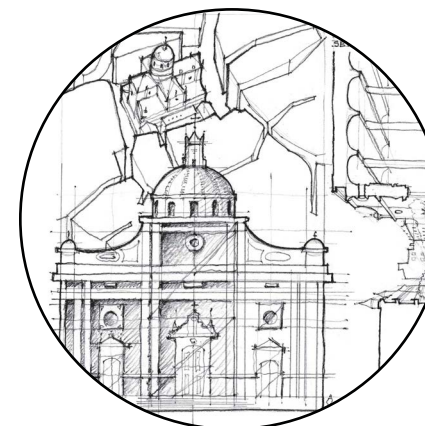
Lecturer **Joseph McKenley** (M.ARCH '17) became 2022 Chair for AIA DC Emerging Architects Committee. He joined Grizform Design Architects as a design architect in July.

Coachhouse, a recent project by Clinical Professor **Amy Gardner** and Assistant Clinical Professor **Brittany Williams** (B.S. Architecture '05, M.ARCH '07), for Gardner Architects LLC, will be featured in the upcoming book, *Bigger Than Tiny, Smaller Than Average*, by Sherri Koones.

Professor **Jeremy Wells** was named interim director of the Historic Preservation Program in July. His publications and speaking engagements this year include a chapter on phenomenology and neuroscience for people-centered methodologies for heritage conservation and a co-authored chapter with HISP alumna Jamesha Gibson (MHP, MCP '17) on equitable participatory methodologies in heritage disaster recovery planning in *Learning from Arnstein's Ladder: From Citizen Participation to Public Engagement*.

Professor **Madlen Simon** served as conference secretary and keynote speaker at the 4th International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism 2021 at Alanya HEP University, Antalya, Turkey. The title of her talk was *Designing a Better World Together*.

Lecturer **Andrew Pressman** wrote a continuing education course for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, "Adaptive Reuse: An Environmentally and Socially Beneficial Alternative to New Construction." [Read more about this course and register, here.](#)



Clinical Associate Professor **Michael Abrams'** [new book](#), *The Art of City Sketching: A Field Manual* (Routledge, 2021), investigates the relationship that happens when the eye, hand and mind work in concert to translate an idea or an observation onto paper. The book guides readers through the process of free-hand architectural sketching and helps readers develop their drawing skills and employ sketching as an analytical tool. "The fast-paced thinking of the hand, the eye and the pen happens through sketching," says Abrams. "The better you are at it, the better you will be at sharing your ideas with your client and design team."



Brandy Espinola was appointed to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group (ARWG) to represent the University of Maryland. In this role, she supports the Commission in developing strategies to reduce Maryland's vulnerability to climate change and identify resources to help state and local governments plan for and adapt to more extreme weather events and sea level rise. Brandy also serves as the ARWG liaison for the Commission's Climate Justice Team and as the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Program Manager for the Environmental Finance Center. She is working with Prince George's County to develop their Climate Action Plan, which includes 26 priority recommendations to mitigate climate impacts and improve resilience within the county.

Associate Professor **Ming Hu** spent this past spring studying net zero renovation strategies in Europe's Nordic Region as a U.S. Grantee with the Fulbright Finland Foundation. A [paper](#) on her work with Finnish colleagues, which compares U.S. and Finnish multifamily building energy retrofits, was released in December. Hu also co-authored a [white paper](#) in November for the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) that offers the most thorough examination to date of current methods for gauging embodied carbon, and a call to action for policymakers and industry leaders to close the knowledge gaps hampering new and effective building energy codes. Hu was promoted in May with tenure to associate professor of architecture.

Clinical Professor **Maria Day-Marshall** was appointed to the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County Board of Directors. In this role, she will join prominent business owners, government stakeholders and real estate professionals to advise on opportunities that boost the county's economic growth and stimulate employment through the acquisition, development and finance of real estate projects.

Professor **Clara Irazabal's** co-authored paper, "[Grabbed Urban Landscapes: Socio-Spatial Tensions in Green Infrastructure Planning in Medellín](#)" won an honorable mention from the Global Planning Education Interest Group. Her article with Alejandro N. Garay-Huaman, "Latinos in Kansas City: The Political Economy of Placemaking" received the [Latin American Studies Association \(LASA\) Latino Studies section \(LSS\) Outstanding Article Award](#). Dr. Irazabal was appointed to the advisory board of the American Planning Association (APA) International Division, for the project: "Planifiquemos: Spanish Phrases and Cultural Insights for Planners to Engage Hispanic Communities." She also joined the Board of Trustees of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Mid-West and Kansas City's acclaimed, contemporary art museum.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Lindsey May** was awarded the 2021 [Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers](#), considered one of the most prestigious awards in North America.

Assistant Professor **Marccus Hendricks** joined an elite crew of 50 brilliant trailblazers from across the U.S. to become a [2021 Grist Fixer](#). Hendricks was recognized for his work to shed light on the infrastructure inequities plaguing communities of color. Earlier this year, Hendricks was appointed to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) Science Advisory Board \(SAB\)](#), the only member to specialize in aspects of the built environment. He is one of just four assistant professors chosen for the SAB, which serves as the advisory body to EPA Administrator Michael Regan. He was also appointed to Springer Nature U.S. Research Advisory Council (USRAC)—one of the preeminent global publishing outlets for scientific research across a number of fields.



In July, Professor **Donald Linebaugh** stepped down as Interim Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, a position he held for three years. Linebaugh [delivered the keynote speech](#) this past fall for the dedication of a historic marker at Virginia's Kippax Plantation, a 17th century archeological site he has been excavating and documenting for over 30 years. Kippax has been an ongoing project at UMD since 2004, recently earning the Chesapeake Material Cultural Studies Grant from the Conservation Fund for ongoing study.

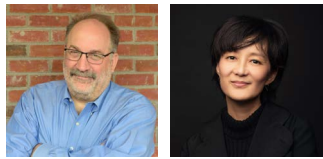
Associate Clinical Professor **Julie Gabrielli** received a Faculty-Student Research Award (FSRA) from the Graduate School, which will support her upcoming project, ***Building Hope***, a six-episode pilot podcast presenting environmentally visionary master's thesis projects through the accessible medium of storytelling. A collaboration with architecture, journalism, design and digital communications students, it is slated to launch in early 2023. "MAPP+D graduates face two critical challenges: maintaining optimism in the face of devastating environmental news and bringing leadership to legacy industries slow to adapt to the effects of climate change," said Gabrielli. "The work of our master's thesis students can speak to a wider audience, demonstrating integrative, practical approaches to society's most pressing problems and expanding the field of possibilities."

Assistant Professor **Juan Burke's** new book [Architecture and Urbanism in Viceregal Mexico: Puebla de los Ángeles, Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries](#) (Routledge) was released in late May. The book constitutes the first dedicated volume to analyzing the colonial architecture and urbanism of the city of Puebla, in central Mexico. It provides a series of insights on how politics, religion and a colonial context shaped the creation of one of the most fascinating cities in the Spanish Americas.

Professor **Ronit Eisenbach** served on the Arts for All Committee to develop the new university-wide initiative that partners the arts with the sciences, technology and other disciplines to develop new and reimagined curricular and experiential offerings. She has developed a Creative Placemaking Minor and continues to run placemaking studios in partnership with local communities and stakeholders. Her latest, Making Place Studio 3 in Riverdale, Maryland, supported local restaurants. In addition to several book chapters, she curated the ongoing Kibel Gallery exhibit on Holodomor and organized a corresponding half-day symposium in November, "[Marking Loss, Making Memorials](#)."



Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (left) and Professor Donald Linebaugh (right) joined members of the Bolling, Eppes and Heretick families last week to unveil a historic marker commemorating Kippax Plantation. Photo courtesy of Rob Hunter.



Collection 14 is a mixed-used design in Washington, D.C., that combines the talents of Matthew Bell and MAPP alumni Jeannine Muller (B.S. Architecture '14, M.ARCH '16), Matt Miller (B.S. Architecture '12, M.ARCH '14) and Austin Raimond (B.S. Architecture '14, Certificate and M.ARCH '16).

Professor **Matthew Bell**, FAIA was appointed to the Washington, D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board this past year by Mayor Muriel Bowser. He served as faculty advisor for the 2021 ULI-Hines Design and Development Competition and was a juror for Montgomery County’s inaugural Design Excellence Awards. Professionally, Bell undertook a number of projects this past year, often with UMD alumni, through his firm Perkins Eastman. They include a new master plan for American University, Collection 14, a dining hall at Catholic University and the McMillan Master Plan and Community Center. He also helped create a master plan vision for Ward 3 in Washington, D.C., pro-bono.

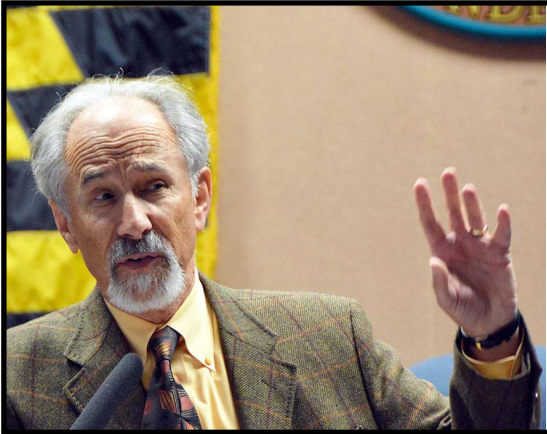
Patricia Rhee, FAIA, an award-winning California designer and partner at California-based design firm Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney Architects, returned to her Maryland roots this year as the University of Maryland Architecture Program’s 2021 Kea Professor. Along with Amy Gardner and Julie Gabrielli, she worked with students in ARCH 600 to create new design plans for the Pony Express, a high-traffic area of Maryland’s Assateague Island that includes a gift shop, showers and beach facilities, for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Retirements

Uri Avin, Carl Bovill and Dennis Pogue



Professor Carl Bovill, who retired in December 2020 after 27 years at UMD, was instrumental in bringing architecture technology to the curriculum at MAPP, winning the hearts and mind of students with his caring, engaging teaching style and “Bovill hands.” [Read more about Carl’s legacy at MAPP.](#)



Research Professor Uri Avin, who retired last May, helped elevate the reputation of the university’s National Center for Smart Growth through cutting-edge research and as the architect of the largest action-learning programs in the country, UMD’s Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS). [Read more about Avin.](#)



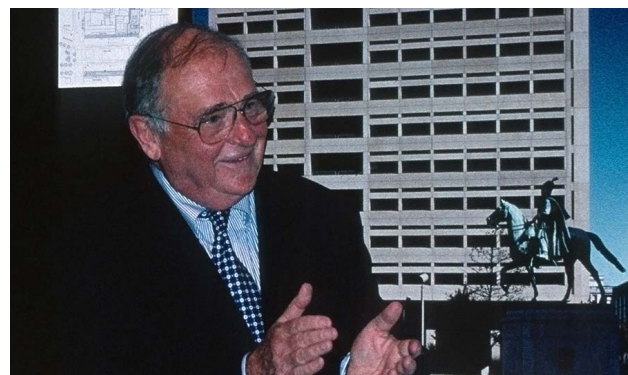
After eight years of teaching, leading and scaling fences for UMD’s Historic Preservation Program, **Adjunct Associate Professor Dennis Pogue** retired last summer. [Read about](#) Pogue’s start in preservation, his storied career and impact on students.

Tribute

Frank Schlesinger



Left to right: John Hill, Frank Schlesinger, William Bechhoefer, Richard Etlin, Karl Du Puy, Ralph Bennett, Roger Lewis and David Cronrath at MAPP's 40th Anniversary Reunion.



Frank Schlesinger

MAPP Mourns Professor Emeritus Frank Schlesinger

Legendary architect and Professor Emeritus Frank Schlesinger, FAIA, who was a mainstay in the Architecture Program for over 30 years, died last spring. Schlesinger leveraged his talent and pedigree in practice to enhance the school's curriculum and instill a standard of excellence that resonated with hundreds of alumni practicing today. He leaves behind a legacy of beautiful structures, and a generation of accomplished architects who benefitted from his guidance and perspective. [Read MAPP's tribute to Schlesinger.](#)

Alumni Profile:

Taylor Cooper Smrikarova

After George Floyd, One Terp Helps a Neighborhood Rebuild

MRED Alum Focuses on Saving, Restoring Century-Old Structure for Black-Owned Businesses

On May 28, 2020, just days after a Minneapolis police officer murdered an unarmed Black man named George Floyd, hundreds of protesters converged on the officer's place of work, the Third Precinct headquarters. As the daylight waned, protesters—met with tear gas and rubber bullets—became more violent, setting the building on fire.



The burning precinct was not just symbolic of a nation confronting a history of police brutality against people of color. It was also a prologue to the demise of the precinct's Downtown Longfellow neighborhood centered on East Lake Street, where—over three days—raging fires, looting and vandalism decimated a city block.

University of Maryland graduate Taylor Cooper Smrikarova (Professional Studies Certificate '13, MRED '16) watched the uprising, first on television and, later, from her front window,

as National Guard tanks rolled down her street toward the Downtown Longfellow neighborhood.

"The sky was just orange and red," said Smrikarova. "Many of the buildings were significantly damaged or completely leveled; the shopping center with the [infamous AutoZone](#), a housing project and, of course, the Third Precinct."

Eighteen months later, she is part of the neighborhood's renewal and a city's healing through plans to redevelop one of the few Downtown Longfellow buildings that survived. The iconic Coliseum Building, a 100-year-old, three-story goliath formerly slated for demolition, will soon be a hub for Black-owned businesses, one

element of a plan to create economic opportunity and build community wealth in South Minneapolis.

Smrikarova is a project manager for the nonprofit Community Development Corporation Redesign (formerly Seward Redesign Inc.), which since 1969 has operated alongside the mostly immigrant- and Black-owned businesses that call the area home; Redesign employees were on the scene shortly after the unrest to help clean up debris, check on community members and assess the damage.

"After the uprising, we began tracking the properties that were damaged in our service area, and it was our goal to essentially 'land bank'—or financially maintain—the property until a business could determine what they wanted to do with it," said Smrikarova. "And the Coliseum was on that list."

Smrikarova's path to the Coliseum was a decade in the making. A Maryland native who earned an undergraduate degree in architecture from Northeastern University, Smrikarova has an eye for design and brain for numbers that made her a perfect candidate for real estate development; she chose UMD specifically for the opportunity to study alongside design students, planners and preservationists.

"I absolutely loved that I was taking classes alongside design students, preservationists—it's one of the reasons I came to Maryland," she said. "It was just really a holistic approach to get a building built or renovated."

She ditched D.C. to move to Minneapolis with her partner four years ago, after a market study concluded they could live in the heart of downtown for around \$1,000 a month. She joined Redesign shortly after the events around George Floyd during the height of the pandemic.

"Redesign's designation allows us to be a part of the community for the long haul, and that was really appealing to me," she said. "As a community developer, you want your project to be successful,



The Coliseum was a community hub for the predominantly Black and immigrant Downtown Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. Photo courtesy of Taylor Smrikarova, Redesign, Inc.

but we also consider how it will impact the rest of the block.”

The reasons for wanting to save the Coliseum, she said, went beyond its staying power, owed to solid brick and concrete construction; for over a century, the Coliseum was the neighborhood’s “third place,” a spot between home and work for the community to gather, shop and socialize. Once it became clear that the Coliseum was destined for the wrecking ball, Smrikarova and her team quickly lobbied the city to add it to their list of local designations, buying them time to put in an application for historic protection and negotiate the sale with the property owners.

“Getting the Coliseum placed on the National Register of Historic Places was partially about securing available financing, but selfishly—and sometimes I’m one of the few people in the room that believes it—it was because the building is just really cool,” said Smrikarova. “I was determined to see that happen.”

Under its new designation, which provides Redesign more flexibility in financing and funding, the Coliseum will be a mix of office space and retail, harkening back to its longstanding place on Lake Street. Redesign will co-own the building with two Black-owned businesses, made possible through a program that provides businesses owned by people of color with cash equity for property development.

“Taylor is a force. She’s been a constant presence in this process,” said Janice Downing, owner of CommonSense Consulting@Work, who co-owns the Coliseum with Redesign and another Black-

owned business. “She is adept at breaking down information from multiple sources and making it really understandable, and has translated that into a realistic project plan and timeline. During this dynamic time of change, it’s really comforting to have that.”

Opportunities to redevelop and grow small businesses, said Smrikarova, revitalize neighborhoods, build a rich community culture and are a direct path to generational wealth. But opportunity, she says, is just part of the equation; businesses need the tools and ongoing support of organizations like Redesign to succeed.

“People have been saying for a long time that we’ve got to empower Black-owned businesses to own their property, but it takes that level of intimacy, support and resources to make it happen,” she said. “That’s what we’re working to have happen across this community and it’s definitely what we’re doing at the Coliseum. We are confident that, once we bring it back online, it’s going to inspire the rest of the block.” ■



People have been saying for a long time that we’ve got to empower Black-owned businesses to own their property, but it takes that level of intimacy, support and resources to make it happen. - TAYLOR COOPER

SMRIKAROVA



Alumni Profile: Carl Elefante, FAIA

“We have to move faster and our cuts have to be deeper.”

ARCH Alum Carl Elefante Reflects on COP26, a Zero-Carbon Future and Where Architects Fit In



than most, a mission he ardently advocated as the 94th president of the American Institute of Architects.

“In the building sector, we have a clear road forward,” he said. “We can prioritize actions that will have the greatest benefit.”

Now, fresh off COP26, he revisits the state of the practice as it relates to our rapidly threatened planet and unpacks what it all means for practitioners. Here are a few of his take-aways:

There is general consensus on how we are going to get there. “Practitioners in the built environment have a clear path forward and the needed technology; our biggest challenges are around affordability and scaling. Frankly, that’s exceptional. It sets us apart. Most other sectors are much farther behind.”

“Carbon accounting” will carry significant weight in financing our built future. “The most interesting presentations I saw at COP26 were from the financial sector. Financiers are no longer interested in investing in buildings with unaddressed climate risk. The climate risk might be vulnerability to sea level rise. Perhaps more importantly, poor emissions performance that prevents the financial sector from meeting its decarbonization targets is also deemed a climate risk. In making financial decisions, carbon accounting will soon have equivalent footing with financial feasibility considerations. In other words, if the feasibility score is good but the carbon score is terrible, banks and investors aren’t going to fund the project. Hearing that had me falling out of my chair.

The carbon reductions outlined in the Paris Agreement are not sufficient to keep the 1.5°C maximum global warming target alive. That was the message Carl Elefante, FAIA (B.ARCH ’80) and six other industry changemakers reiterated at COP26, an Olympic-sized climate event that converged 25,000 world and industry leaders in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. Elefante, who attended on behalf of Architecture 2030, AIA and the Climate Heritage Network, moderated a 1.5°C COP26 Communique Official Side Event leading up to the summit’s “Cities, Regions & Built Environment” day. The panel discussion offered a sobering account of the built environment’s role in our planet’s degradation; that buildings are responsible for nearly 40% of the world’s energy-related carbon emissions and that any chance of slowing planetary warming requires a 65% carbon reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2040, a recommendation echoed by many world leaders and scientists. Ambitious, but—according to the group—attainable, with backing from over 500 firms, organizations and sub-national governments in the planning, design, development and construction fields.

For Elefante, it is familiar territory with an evolving map. A principal emeritus at Quinn Evans, where he served as director of sustainability and a pioneer in the sustainable design movement, Elefante—who is now a senior fellow for Architecture 2030 and on the international steering committee for the Climate Heritage Network—has been chasing zero net carbon longer

“The building and financial sectors have agreed to adopt Whole Life Carbon Accounting (WLCA). It’s comprehensive in scope and includes initial embodied emissions from the manufacturing and construction phase, operational emissions, maintenance and repair and, ultimately, demolition and deconstruction. For those of us designing buildings, it means our estimates will have legs.



Practitioners in the built environment have a clear path forward and the needed technology; our biggest challenges are around affordability and scaling. – CARL ELEFANTE, FAIA



Our carbon accounting will be tied directly to the financing of projects. This represents a sea change that aligns design and financial factors with decarbonization.”

We must re-conceive buildings as potential power sources—and mechanisms for carbon capture. “Buildings as a power source—through building-integrated technologies like photovoltaics—will be essential in achieving any green energy strategy. We have the needed technology and know-how to integrate renewables in modest-scale buildings, from single-family homes to mid-rise apartments and office buildings. From this point forward, zero-net energy buildings must be the standard.

“The other decarbonization design imperative is using buildings for carbon capture. Today, many architects are using bio-based products—wood, bamboo, basically anything that grows. But we must also transform standard construction materials. What can we achieve beyond reducing embodied emissions? There is some really interesting work being done with concrete. For instance, demolished concrete rubble can be decalcified. The harvested calcium is then recombined with CO2 taken from the atmosphere to literally grow new stone. The concrete industry today is gigantic. A concrete-centric solution is not to be laughed at.”

A big way to move the needle is right in front of us. “More than 50% of the non-residential building stock is comprised of late-century buildings constructed between 1950-2000. Over the next twenty years, during decarbonization’s primetime, most will need significant reinvestment. This generation of buildings is a problem that won’t go away.

“There are about 6 million buildings in the U.S. that are part of that non-residential building stock, but only 300,000 of them account for 50% of the collective floor area. These large-scale late-century buildings are low hanging fruit, and should be a priority.

“An example may help. In D.C., when a typical 8- to 12-story office building gets to be about 40 years old, the typical renewal approach is to strip off the curtain wall and gut the entire interior. The building is reclad with a new envelope and all interior features and systems are replaced, repositioning the buildings as a class-A office building again—or converting it to housing. Simply by keeping the concrete frame avoids at least 50% of the embodied emissions footprint that would occur had the building been torn down and replaced. Most embodied emissions are in heavy construction. If you do nothing else, just keep the concrete and steel. It may seem counter-intuitive; however, it saves many tons of carbon emissions.”

Every practitioner can (and should) be building net-zero right now. “No excuse; you should be designing zero net energy buildings right now and constructing buildings with carbon sequestering materials, too. Talk to your clients, get them involved.

“Remember, our sector has a clear road forward—we can prioritize what actions have the greatest benefit. Our challenge now is moving from trends to implementing targeted plans in our communities. We need to engage and act.”

Despite the headlines, he’s optimistic.

“I’m very optimistic. We’re at the threshold of an exciting new era, an era of unprecedented relevance for the built environment. Our field is being asked to retool everything, everywhere to get to a zero-carbon future. By the end of this century, nearly 9 in 10 people will live in cities. In decarbonizing, we must lay the foundations for the urban future. Solutions that will make the world more peaceful, healthy, equitable and livable will be urban solutions. We are tasked with making the world a better place. What a wonderful job description!” ■

Giving:



(Left to right): Craig Spangler (B.ARCH '82), Dean Dawn Jourdan and Bill Bonstra, FAIA, LEED AP (B.ARCH '83).

MAPP Celebrates Record-Breaking \$15 Million Raised

As Fearless Ideas Campaign Ends, MAPP Looks to the Future—including Plans for a Renewed Home

The University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP) wrapped its historic, seven-year giving campaign—which will fund scholarships, programming and research—exceeding its \$14 million goal to raise \$15.1 million. Over 1,400 donors supported the school during UMD’s *Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland*, an unprecedented capital campaign that positions the university as a global leader in research and education.

“The impact of this giving is manifest in our recruitment and retention rates,” said Dean Dawn Jourdan at a celebration event November 5. “It can be seen in the high and prestigious placement of our graduating students. We see it most in the long-term commitment of our former students in giving back. They give back because each of you has set an example of the power of paying it forward.”

Several notable gifts and grants, many established by friends and alumni of the school, will support MAPP’s ongoing mission to provide transformative classroom and real-world experiences, create opportunities for professional development and soften the financial burden associated with today’s educational landscape.

This milestone comes at a pivotal time for the school, with the arrival of Jourdan in July

and several initiatives planned for the future, including a new undergraduate major in real estate development and new partnerships across campus and beyond. It also sets the stage for the school’s most ambitious project in 50 years—a capital campaign for a renewed building to house the school’s rapidly growing, interconnected disciplines.

“As professionals of the built environment, we so value the importance of ‘place’ in supporting the lives and endeavors for those who engage us to design, preserve and develop their facilities,” said Craig Spangler. “While the Architecture Building has served all of us well over the last 50 years, it needs renewal and expansion to fully embrace learning and discovery in the built environment. My hopes and dreams are that, as a community, we collaboratively rally to develop the support needed to enhance the school’s own built environment and continue its trajectory of excellence.”

Launched in 2014, the University of Maryland’s *Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland* is the largest giving campaign in the university’s history, with more than 110,000 donors and generating \$1.5 billion to fund new world-class facilities, student scholarships, innovative, interdisciplinary programming and cutting edge-research. ■

"Building" the Future

When a new home for the Architecture Program was first conceived by Dean John Hill in 1967, he envisioned a series of spaces for students to learn and work, collaborate and showcase their efforts as they trained to design the world's next great places.

Hill probably never considered that vision, which resulted in the first contemporary-style building on Maryland's campus, a modest one, but the school's evolution has proved otherwise. The gradual addition of allied disciplines—real estate development, historic preservation and urban planning—coupled with research centers and dual degree options—has earned the school a national reputation but has also made for tight quarters, with programs bleeding into nearby buildings.

"I would like to see an architecture program with design studios that integrate with the other disciplines, something that looks more like a real design office where everyone is working together in one place," said Architecture Program Director Brian Kelly. "And we can't do that right now. We're out of space."

In the spring of 2020, Kelly challenged Professor of the Practice Peter Noonan to tackle the Architecture Building for his studio course, ARCH 601, as leadership began to consider the building's future. With consultation from higher education experts at Ayers Saint Gross, including several

MAPP alumni, 12 architecture graduate students explored the current constraints of the building they inhabit day-in and day-out, and envisioned what it could be: notions that pushed the growing School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation out its brick shell to infuse light, flexibility and—most critically—space.

"The whole idea was to generate a vision of what these possible futures might look like," said Noonan. "And, while students developed schemes for both adaptive reuse and a completely new building, some of the strongest schemes build on what we already have."

Kelly said that the groundswell of enthusiasm from alumni who spied the concepts at the fall Board of Visitors meeting moves the school's vision for more space closer to reality, but will require significant support and funding to move it over the finish line.

"The Architecture Building has served its purpose," says Kelly, "but it was built to be an architecture school, not a school for architecture, planning, preservation and real estate development. As we look to our future, the key will be networking to identify those people who can help us build a case for more space, and provide the significant internal and external funding needed to make this dream come true." ■

ARCH 601 resulted in 12 design proposals—six completely new buildings and six adaptive reuse concepts—that envision MAPP's home of the future. From airy courtyards to strategic, glass-clad volumes, the designs look to unite the disciplines, add creative space and complement the rapidly growing Mayer Mall. Melonee Quintanilla's award-winning concept, Lightbox, takes the organization of the school—with its central Great Space and surrounding classrooms—vertical, replacing the saw-tooth roof with a mass-timber, glassy addition that acts as a nighttime beacon on the campus edge. Illuminated at night, the lantern-like space showcases students burning the midnight oil.



1) The Jon Graff Prize, established by the late Silicon Valley mogul Jon Graff, supports continued work and research for outstanding graduate students in historic preservation. *Pictured: Michael Chris Bryan (MHP '21) holding up the Jon Graff Prize medal.*

2) A Gift from the Colvin Foundation shored up the support necessary for a new minor in real estate development and one in construction management, two of the university's most popular minors on campus. *Pictured: Real estate development students on a construction site visit.*

3) A \$3 million grant from J.P. Morgan Chase launched the National Center for Smart Growth's Small Business Anti-displacement Network, which works with thought leaders, policymakers and communities to combat small business gentrification, particularly among businesses owned by people of color. *Pictured: A "Black Owned Business" sign outside a shop. Photo courtesy of Sid Espinosa '20.*

4) Several travel endowments were established during the campaign, bringing life-changing study experiences to students across the school. They include a scholarship established in memory of the late Professor Sidney Brower, the Steven and Carol Hurtt Education Abroad Endowment and the Brian P. Kelly Study Abroad Endowment, established by Architecture Program Director Brian Kelly. *Pictured: Architecture students on a study abroad trip to Rome, Italy.*

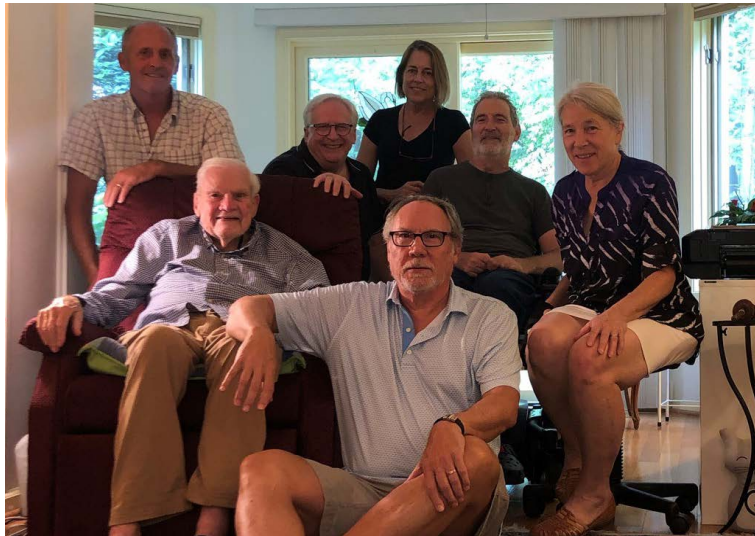
5) The Karl F.G. DuPuy Lecture in Urban Design will bring practitioners at the forefront of today's design challenges to College Park. *Pictured: Karl F.G. DuPuy and his student.*

6) Scholarship/internship awards from several area firms established during the campaign create professional experiences and networking opportunities for students. *Pictured, left to right: Bryan Asson, Brian Kelly, Timothy Shook, Sara Ghafar Samar and Kevin Garzon.*

7) The Spangler Graduate Student Award Fund sustains the critical work of making education affordable and attainable for students pursuing graduate degrees in architecture. *Pictured: graduate students working on an urban design project.*



Alumni News



(Image left) David Fogel visits with former students **Georgi Rixey (B.ARCH '78)**, **Jim Keen (M.A. Urban Studies '81)**, **Jill Schick (B.ARCH '79)**, **Howard Goldstein (B.ARCH '77)**, **Jane Treacy (B.ARCH '79)** and **Neal Sumner (B.ARCH '78)** at Fogle's home in Annapolis last September.

William Glenn (B.S. Architecture '81) retired this past October from his post at the NASA Goddard Space

Flight Center, where he served as Mission Support Manager for the Flight Projects Directorate. During his time at NASA, Bill led design and construction activities for the construction and/or renovation of nearly 3 million square feet. "I believe my School of Architecture education (plus a couple other degrees) poised me for the most interesting and unexpected career journey ever," he said.

Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP (B.S. Architecture '85), who previously served as the Architect of the Capitol under President Barak Obama, has been named Interim CEO at the National Institute of Building Sciences, taking over for fellow UMD Business School alum Lakisha Woods ('97), until a permanent replacement is hired.



Photo courtesy of Peter Levenson, Kibel Company.

(Image right) Steps away from the Twin Towers, the iconic Manhattan skyscraper, 90 West, miraculously survived the 9/11 attacks. Alum **Charles Kibel (M.ARCH '90)** shares the story of the building's resurrection, healing from 9/11 and an unlikely tribute to a friend. Read his story in [Maryland Today](#) or watch the [full interview here](#).

Courtney Miller Bellairs (B.S. Architecture '91) was named associate chair of foundation studies and professor at Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta in August.



(Image above) A scholarship in honor of the late **John Maisto (M.ARCH '93)**, a D.C.-area career architect who passed away this year, will ensure that his legacy continues by inspiring young architecture students to follow in his footsteps. Dual 2022 master's degree recipients Nusheen Majidi (Architecture and Real Estate Development) and Bhavishya Venkitaraman (Architecture and Community Planning) each received \$10,000 to go towards tuition and fees in their final year of their graduate programs.

Alexander Dzurec (B.S. Architecture '95) and his firm [Autotroph](#) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, appeared in *Forbes Magazine*, which featured Dzurec's regenerative concept for the next iteration of Burning Man, called Fly Ranch, as part of the LAGI 2020 Fly Ranch design challenge.

Laura King Manno (M.ARCH '97) joined Perkins Eastman in January after serving over 12 years as the Director for Strategic Academic & Research Facilities Planning at George Mason University (Virginia's largest public university). At Perkins Eastman, she will serve as a senior associate / senior planner.

Jeffrey Jay Osmond (B.S. Architecture, B.A. Sociology '92; M.ARCH '96, MCP '97) is the Risk Management Program Manager for the U.S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Office of Design & Construction in its Center for Construction Excellence and will be entering his 35th year in the Navy Reserves. During the pandemic, he penned "Purveyor of Rock n' Roll Poetry, Prose, Songs, Comedy, and Commentary on Democracy and Self-Government Preservation in the Republic of the United States of America" under the pen name "Jeffersonian Jeff."

Architecture alum **Myer Harrell, AIA, LFA, LEED AP BD+C (B.S. ARCH '02)**, Homes has been named as a 2021 AIA Young Architect for his active engagement in the profession of architecture, his leadership in sustainability and his impact on the built environment.



(Image left) **Vivian Guerra (MCP '03)** has risen through the D.C. ranks of public service, beginning as a neighborhood planning coordinator for Ward 1 and most recently as the newly appointed chief of staff for the DC Office of Planning. Read about how Guerra's work reflects a lifelong interest in improving quality of life for her neighbors, particularly those historically underserved and underrepresented, in [this profile](#).

Forrest Popkin (B.S. Architecture '08), a Senior Project Manager with ZA+D-Architect was named one of Frederick Maryland's Top 50 under 40 by the Frederic County office of Economic Development in January.

Martiena Schneller (M.ARCH '08), vice president of design at Washington, D.C.-based Hoffman & Associates, has been named to Washington Business Journal's 40 Under 40 list for 2021, which recognizes stand-out business owners, CEOs, nonprofit executives, attorneys and other corporate leaders in the Washington region.

MRED lecturer and MAPP Alum **Marcus Ervin (MRED '09)** was recently appointed as the Director of Real Estate at Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County after serving in an acting role for several months. He has been teaching RDEV 350 since 2018. "I graduated from the MRED program in 2009 and have been fortunate enough to instruct as a Capstone Advisor over the years. It's truly a family here!"

(Image right) The University of Maryland Alumni Association honored **Joseph Kunkel (M.ARCH '09)** for the 2021 Elaine Johnson Coates Award in May. The award recognizes Kunkel's work to build resiliency for Native American communities across the United States through design, education, planning and multi-agency collaboration.



Jen Nyquist (MRED '09) was selected as a Women of Influence in the Mentorship Category from GlobeSt. in July, and to be part of ULI Atlanta's Center for Leadership Class of 2021.



Matt Latham (MRED '10) was promoted to Director, Real Estate Investments at Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB).

(Image left) After graduating from Maryland with an international business and finance degree in '04, **Eric Walter's (MRED '10)** first professional experiences got his feet wet in real estate; but it was the 2008 recession, a return to Maryland for his Master's in Real Estate Development and, ultimately, a dead mall that propelled him to the pinnacle of success. Read about [Eric's journey](#).

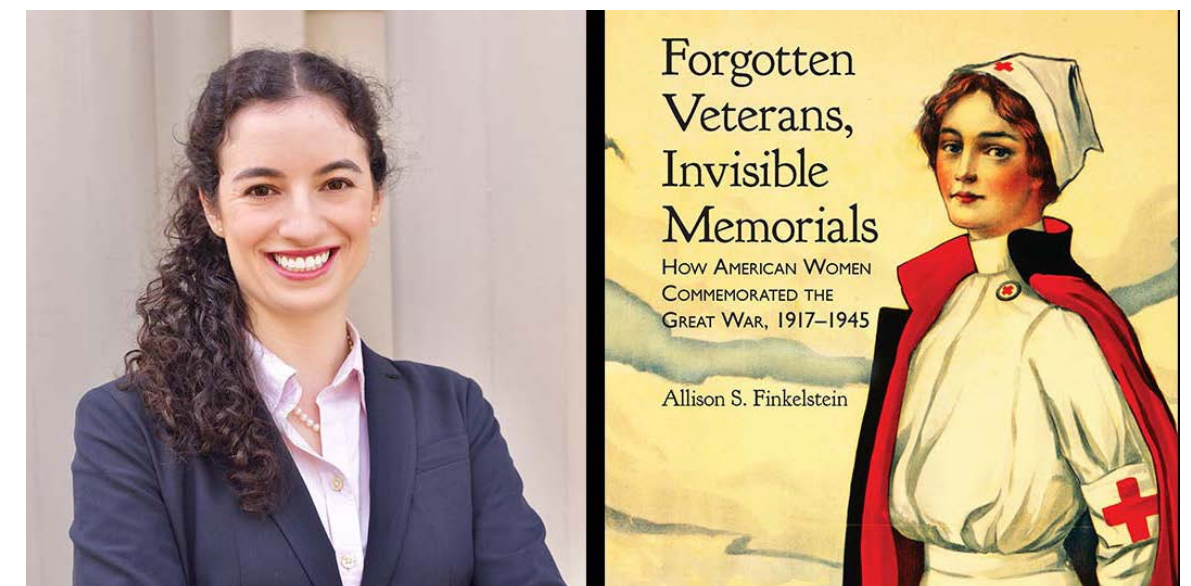
Alum **Heather Howard (MRED '11)** was named president of the African American Real Estate Professionals DC Chapter (AAREP DC). Howard, who is currently vice president of development at FD Stonewater, began her new position in January.

Anthony Pizzo, AIA, NCARB (B.S. Architecture '08, M.ARCH '12) was named principal at Axis Architects, Rockville, Md., in January.

Tamir Ezzat (B.S. Architecture '08; M.ARCH, Certificate-Urban Design '13) and **Nicholas Tomaszewski's (B.S. Architecture '10; M.ARCH '13)** firm, ddb Workshop, won big this year at the 2021 AIA Baltimore Design Awards, earning the Social Equity Award, People's Choice Award and Honorable Mention: Good Design = Good Business.

Amber Wendland (B.S. Architecture '10, M.ARCH '13), a senior associate at Baltimore-based Ayers Saint Gross, has been named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record.

As Director of Acquisitions for Stoneweg US in St. Petersburg, Florida, **Ryan Smyth (MRED '14)** ended 2021 with over \$323M in multifamily acquisitions volume, totaling 1,748 units across the Rust Belt and the Southeast.



(Image above) In her new book, HISP alum **Allison Finkelstein (Historic Preservation Certificate '15)** shares the behind-the-scenes efforts by women after the Great War to ensure their contributions were not left out of the history books. Finkelstein shares a few of those stories in [this profile](#).

Meghan Leahy (M.ARCH, M.RED '17) recently became Director of Development at outlier Realty Capital, where she oversees the execution of the company's development and construction by managing all facets and activities related to projects.

Lonna Babu, AIA, NOMA, NCARB (B.S. Architecture '16, M.ARCH '18) joined the Catholic University of America as a part-time adjunct professor in August. In June, she was named associate at Ayers Saint Gross.

(Image right) “It really comes down to elevating the quality of housing by providing a real investment,” says alum **Tyler Grote (MRED '18)**, who led the development of Baltimore’s **22 Light**, a modern affordable housing option located two blocks from the Inner Harbor. “Seeing the positive impact it can make, particularly in areas where there is such a great need, is really rewarding.” [Read more about Grote’s work.](#)

Sophie Habib (B.S. Architecture '15, M.ARCH '18) was promoted to associate at Ayers Saint Gross, Baltimore in March. She has been with the firm since 2018.

Scott Glickman (MRED '19) joined Akelius Residential this past year as a construction manager, where he is responsible for the planning and management of multiple projects including residential unit upgrades, façade improvements and common area renovations at multifamily properties throughout the D.C. area.

After two years at Perkins Eastman as an architectural designer, **Kyle Huck, Assoc. AIA, LEED Green Associate, CDT (B.S. Architecture '17, M.ARCH, M.RED '19)** joined Soto Architecture & Urban Design, PLLC in September at a Project Coordinator.

After two years as a staff architect for WDG, **Heather Summers, Assoc. AIA, WELL AP (M.ARCH '19)** joined Gensler’s New York City office in January as a Design Technology Specialist.

Dan Lorenzana, Associate AIA (M.ARCH '20) was named an architectural designer at Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP in April.



Amber Robbs, LEED GA (M.ARCH '20) joined the Gensler DC office in April as a technical designer.

Rachel Cain (M.ARCH, M.RED '21) joined WDG in July as a staff architect. In August, she began teaching architecture as an adjunct professor at Morgan State University.



(Left to right): Lauren Gilmartin, Gregory Goldstein and Linda Clark, AIA, NCIDQ, NCARB, WELL AP.

(Image above): **Linda Clark (M.ARCH '12), Lauren Gilmartin (B.S. Architecture '16, M.ARCH, M.C.P. '20)** and **Gregory Goldstein (M.ARCH '21)** are three of four outstanding emerging professionals to join AIA Potomac Valley’s (AIAPV) inaugural class of [Emerging Professional Practitioners](#), a leadership development and mentorship program.

Tochi Ohakawa (M.ARCH, M.RED '21) joined Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners at a Development Coordinator in September.

Daniel Peragine (B.S. Architecture '19, M.ARCH '21) joined Design Collective in June as a Level 1 architect.

Melonee Quintanilla, LEED Green Associate (B.S. Architecture '18, M.ARCH '21) was promoted to Architectural Design Professional at Ayers Saint Gross in June. She is co-chair of the Future Architects Resources (FAR)/Kids-in-Design Committee for AIA Baltimore.

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